

**Remarks**

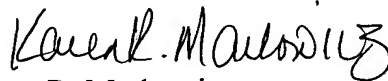
Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 11-12, 14-23 and 38-55 are pending with claims 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 38, 43, 44 and 51 being the independent claims. Claims 1-10, 13 and 24-37 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Karen R. Markowicz  
Agent for Applicants  
Registration No. 36,351

Date: 12/16/05

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600  
474951\_1.DOC